

HOUSEHOLD SAFETY:

PURCHASING STORING AND DISPOSING



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

What Makes A Product Hazardous?

A hazardous product is any product that contains a hazardous material that, if misused or improperly disposed of, could pose a threat to human health or the environment.

A product or substance is hazardous when it contains one or more of the following conditions:

- **Flammable:** Easily set on fire or ignited
- **Explosive/Reactive:** Detonates or explodes through exposure to heat, sudden shock or pressure
- **Corrosive:** Burns and destroys skin on contact
- **Toxic/Poisonous:** Causes injury or death by ingestion, inhalation or absorption
- **Radioactive:** Damages and destroys cells and chromosomal material

Household Hazardous Products

Hundreds of products sold in hardware stores and supermarkets are hazardous. Most household hazardous materials are one of the following types:

- **Automotive Products:** Waste oil, antifreeze, gasoline, brake fluid
- **Household Cleaners:** Oven cleaners, drain cleaners, disinfectants, laundry products
- **Paints and Solvents:** Latex and oil based paint, thinners, varnish, wood preservatives
- **Poisons:** Pesticides, herbicides, rodent poison

ROUTES OF EXPOSURE

Hazardous substances may enter through:

- **Ingestion** – Eating or drinking hazardous substances or contaminated food and water
- **Inhalation** – Breathing in gases, vapors or sprays
- **Absorption** – through skin contact with or without damaging the skin

Effects Of Hazardous Products

Hazardous products present two threats to human health and the environment: acute and chronic. Acute effects are immediate and characterized by severe symptoms with a sudden onset:

- Skin burned from battery acid
- Fire caused by an exploding aerosol can
- A fish kill from chemicals dumped down a storm drain

Chronic effects are gradual and occur from repeated exposure over a period of time. The most common kinds of chronic health effects are:

- Liver or kidney damage prevents the removal of toxic substances from the body
- Central nervous system damage can cause depression, changes in IQ or paralysis

- Cancer is the growth of abnormal cells that multiply and spread
- Birth defects can effect the development of a fetus or modify the genetic makeup of an organism for generations

Consumer Tips

BEFORE YOU BUY A PRODUCT...

- **Read the label.** Make sure that you understand what hazards, if any, are associated with the product, its use, or its disposal
- Look for the signal words on the container and buy the least hazardous product
- For pesticides, **“DANGER”** means highly toxic, **“WARNING”** or **“CAUTION”** moderately toxic and **“CAUTION”** slightly toxic
- For household products, **“POISON”** means highly toxic, **“DANGER”** toxic, **“WARNING”** or **“CAUTION”** less toxic

BUYING PRODUCTS...

Products labeled “non-toxic” may be a way of identifying a safer product; however, be aware that the word “non-toxic” is an advertising word and has no federal regulatory definition.

- Choose products with child resistant packaging
- Use non-hazardous or less-hazardous alternative products and recipes
- If safer alternatives are not available, buy only the amount you will need
- One general household cleaner can serve a multitude of purposes; you do not need a different product for every cleaning problem
- Avoid aerosol products. Aerosols disperse substances that can be inhaled deeply into the lungs and absorbed into the bloodstream

ONCE IT'S IN YOUR HOME, USE IT SAFELY...

- Follow the directions on the label
- Use proper safety equipment
- Have a working fire extinguisher available
- Wear protective clothing as necessary
- Post emergency numbers near your telephone
- Leave products in their original container
- Do not mix products unless directed to do so by the label's directions
- Use only what is needed, using twice as much product does not mean twice the results
- If pregnant, avoid toxic chemical exposure as much as possible. Many toxic products have not been tested for their effects on unborn children
- Avoid wearing soft contact lenses, they can absorb product vapors and damage your eyes
- Use products in well-ventilated areas. Work outdoors whenever possible. If working indoors, open windows and use an exhaust fan to blow the air outside rather than re-circulating it indoors. If you feel dizzy or nauseous, take a break and go outside.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while using hazardous products. Traces of hazardous chemicals can be carried from hand to mouth.

- Smoking can also start a fire if the product is flammable
- Clean up after using hazardous products
- Seal products and refasten all childproof caps
- Do not leave hazardous products unattended

STORE IT SAFELY...

- Keep products out of the reach of children and animals, and away from food items
- Make sure all hazardous products are clearly labeled before storing them
- Never store hazardous products/wastes in food or beverage containers
- Make sure lids and caps are tightly sealed and childproof
- Make sure containers are kept dry to prevent corrosion. Place corroded containers in a labeled plastic bucket with a secure lid
- Store volatile chemicals in a well-ventilated area.
- Store rags used with flammable products in a sealed and marked container
- Keep flammable or combustible products away from heat, flames or other sources of ignition
- Store gasoline in approved containers in ventilated areas and away from ignition sources
- Know where flammable materials are stored and know how to extinguish them

Guidelines For Safe Disposal

Information contained in this guide is intended for residential users only.

Never dispose of any hazardous waste by putting it in the trash, dumping it on the ground, pouring it down a storm drain or by burning it. Improper disposal can cause a threat to human health and the environment.

Use It Up: If a product is used up, no hazardous waste is generated.

Recycle: Waste oil can be recycled at the following collection centers in Clark County:

- **Central Transfer and Recycling Center**
11034 NE 117th Avenue
M-F 6 am to 6 pm, Sat & Sun 8 am to 4 pm
- **G.I. Joe's**
13215 SE Mill Plain Road, Vancouver
M-F 9 am to 9 pm, Sat 9 am to 8 pm, Sun 9 am to 7 pm
- **Jeff's Automotive**
109 West Yacolt Road, Yacolt
M-F 8:30 am to 6 pm, Sat 9 am to 5 pm
- **Mill Plain Chevron**
5005 E. Mill Plain Boulevard, Vancouver
8 am to 6 pm, every day
- **Q Lube**
2715 E. Fourth Plain, Vancouver
M-F 8 am to 6 pm, Sat 8 am to 5 pm

- **Schucks Auto Works**

6607 E. Fourth Plain, Vancouver
6918 NE Highway 99, Hazel Dell
11808 SE Mill Plain Boulevard, Vancouver
7 am to 9 pm, every day

- **Texaco**

404 NE 78th Street, Hazel Dell
24 hours a day, day

- **Thrifty Auto Supply**

11505 NE Fourth Plain
M-F 8 am to 9 pm, Sat 8 am to 6 pm, Sun 9 am to 6 pm

- **West Van Materials Recovery Center**

6601 NW Old Lower River Road
M-F 6 am to 6 pm, Sat 8 am to 4 pm

Save for a Household Hazardous Waste collection event or take to a licensed Hazardous Waste handler:

Some household hazardous wastes pose such a threat to the environment or human health that the only safe way to dispose of them is to have them disposed of professionally. In Clark County, household hazardous waste can be taken to the following collection sites at no charge:

- **Central Transfer and Recycling Center**

11034 NE 117th Avenue, Vancouver
(360) 256-8482
Sat and Sun from 8 am to 4 pm

- **West Van Materials Recovery Center**

6601 NW Old Lower River Road, Vancouver
(360) 737-1727
Fri and Sat from 8 am to 4 pm

- **Mobile Collection Events**

Call Clark County Public Works Department at 397-6118 ext. 4016 for collection schedule.

How Do I Safely Transport Hazardous Waste?

BEFORE TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS WASTE:

- Check each container to make sure lids are tight
- Pack each waste in a sturdy container
- Line the bottom of the container with newspaper or other absorbent material
- Transport the waste in your vehicle away from passengers or pets
- Label all containers

DO NOT BRING:

- Asbestos, Business waste, Biological/Medical waste, Radiological waste, or Explosives
- Containers larger than 5 gallons
- More than 25 gallons of hazardous waste per visit

For More Information Call:

- **1-360-397-6118 ext. 4016** *Clark County Solid Waste* provides information about household and business hazardous waste, waste reduction, recycling, composting and other solid waste issues.
- **1-360-696-8186** *Vancouver Solid Waste* provides information about waste reduction, recycling, composting and other solid waste issues.
- **Department of Ecology: 1-360-690-7171** *Vancouver Field Office* provides information on business generated waste and water quality issues.
- **1-360-407-6300** *24 Hour Emergency Spill Response* provides for the cleanup of chemical and hazardous waste spills and leaks.
- **1-800-633-7585** *Hazardous Substance Information Office* provides information about the proper disposal of business generated hazardous products/waste.
- **1-800-RECYCLE** *Recycle Hotline* provides information about recycling non-toxic products and the disposal of household hazardous waste products.

Additional Hazardous Material/Waste brochures are available from Clark County Department of Public Works. To obtain a copy of the following brochures call 397-6118 ext. 4352.

- *Household Hazardous Material – Product Labeling*
- *Household Hazardous Material – Purchasing, Storing and Disposing*
- *Household Hazardous Material – Household Safety: Preventive Measures and Protective Equipment*
- *Safer Alternatives: Reducing The Risk In The Garage*
- *Safer Alternatives: Reducing The Risk In The Home*
- *Safer Alternatives: Reducing The Risk In The Yard And Garden*
- *Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program*
- *Get The Point: Be Safe With Your Used Syringes*
- *Clark County Recycling Directory*

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Although attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this booklet, Clark County Department of Public Works assumes no responsibility or liability for the effectiveness or results of procedures described in this publication and disclaims any injury or damage resulting from the use or effect of any product or information specified in this publication.



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